Appendicitis is when the appendix becomes inflamed. The appendix is a narrow pouch which is at the end of the first part of the large intestine.

The reason for the inflammation is caused by bacteria that gets inside the wall of the appendix and thus causes infection.

Signs and Symptoms:

* Right sided lower abdominal pain
* Nausea
* Possible vomiting
* Fever

The diagnosis is usually made by a physical exam as well as the symptoms described by the patient. Blood work is done to look for an increase in white blood cells. An Ultra Sound can be done, but a Cat Scan is much more accurate.

Treatment is generally surgery to remove the appendix. Antibiotics are started as soon as the diagnosis is made to combat the infection. It is very important to get the appendix out as soon as possible when infected to avoid having the appendix rupture and cause infection throughout the body.

There is nothing one can do to avoid getting appendicitis. Some times when individuals are undergoing other abdominal surgery, they will have their appendix taken out as well. This is really the only way to avoid getting appendicitis.